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In re Application of
Bonjouklian, et al.
Application No. 10/597,359
Filed: July 21, 2006
Atty Docket No. **X-16603**

OFFICE OF PETITIONS
ON APPLICATION FOR
PATENT TERM ADJUSTMENT

This is in response to the "REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION OF PATENT TERM ADJUSTMENT INDICATED IN NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE (37 C.F.R. § 1.705)" filed March 31, 2010, which is properly treated under 37 CFR 1.705(b). Applicants submit that the patent term adjustment to be indicated on the patent is seven hundred and eighty-three (783) days, not zero(0) days as calculated by the Office as of the mailing of the initial determination of patent term adjustment.¹ Applicants request this correction, in part, on the basis that the Office will take in excess of three years to issue this patent.

As the instant application for patent term adjustment requests reconsideration of the patent term adjustment as it relates to the Office's failure to issue the patent within 3 years of the filing date, the application for patent term adjustment under 37 CFR 1.705(b) is **DISMISSED as PREMATURE**.

Knowledge of the actual date the patent issues is required to calculate the amount, if any, of additional patent term patentee is entitled to for Office failure to issue the patent within 3 years. See § 1.702(b). (This is true even where a request for continued examination (RCE) was filed). The computer will not undertake the § 1.702(b) calculation until the actual date of issuance of the patent has been determined. Likewise, the computer will not calculate any further Office delay under §

¹ It is noted that the Office records indicate the subject application is eligible for Patent Term Extension, rather than Patent Term Adjustment. In fact, the application is eligible for Patent Term Adjustment, not Patent Term Extension.

1.702(a)(4) or applicant delay under § 1.704(c)(10) until the actual date of issuance of the patent has been determined. As such, the Office can not make a determination on the correctness of the patent term adjustment until the patent has issued.

Requesting reconsideration of the patent term adjustment to be indicated on the patent under 37 CFR 1.705(b) based on the initial determination of patent term adjustment and a projected issuance date of the patent (or even the filing date of the request for continued examination) is premature. Accordingly, it is appropriate to dismiss as premature such a request.

Rather than file an application for patent term adjustment under 37 CFR 1.705(b) contesting the 37 CFR 1.702(b) calculation at the time of the mailing of the notice of allowance, applicants are advised that they may wait until the time of the issuance of the patent and file a request for reconsideration of the patent term adjustment pursuant to 37 CFR 1.705(d). As the USPTO does not calculate the amount of time earned pursuant to 37 CFR 1.702(b) until the time of the issuance of the patent, the Office will consider any request for reconsideration of the patent term adjustment due to an error in the calculation of 37 CFR 1.702(b) to be timely if the request for reconsideration is filed within two months of the issuance of the patent.

However, as to all other bases for contesting the initial determination of patent term adjustment received with the notice of allowance, applicants must timely file an application for patent term adjustment prior to the payment of the issue fee².

To the extent that applicants otherwise requests reconsideration of the patent term adjustment at the time of the mailing of the notice of allowance, the application for patent term adjustment is **granted**.

² For example, if applicant disputes both the calculation of patent term adjustment under 37 CFR 1.702(a)(1) for Office failure to mail a first Office action or notice of allowance not later than fourteen months after the date on which the application was filed and under 37 CFR 1.702(b) for Office failure to issue a patent within three years of the actual filing date of the application, then applicant must still timely file an application for patent term adjustment prior to the payment of the issue fee to contest the calculation of Office delay in issuing a first Office action or notice of allowance. See 37 CFR 1.705(b) and 35 U.S.C. 154(b)(3)(B). A dispute as to the calculation of the §1.702(a)(1) period raised on request for reconsideration of patent term adjustment under 37 CFR 1.705(d) will be dismissed as untimely filed.

On February 1, 2010, the Office mailed the Determination of Patent Term Adjustment under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) in the above-identified application. The Notice stated that the patent term adjustment to date is 0 days. Applicants timely filed the instant application for patent term adjustment³.

Applicants maintain that the adjustment to the patent term adjustment under 73 CFR 1.702(a)(1) is 601 days. Applicants' argument has been considered and is well taken. A review of the record reveals that the USPTO action pursuant to 37 CFR 1.702(a)(1) was mailed on May 26, 2009, fourteen months, and six hundred and one days after the date the application fulfilled the requirements under 35 USC 371. **Accordingly, the patent term should be adjusted by 601 days.**

The fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.18(e) for consideration of the application for patent term adjustment under 37 CFR 1.705(b) will be charged to deposit account 05-0840.

The application will be directed to the Office of Data Management for issuance of the patent. The patent term adjustment indicated on the patent (as shown on the Issue Notification mailed about three weeks prior to the patent issuance) will include the adjustment of the 601 days any additional adjustment accrued both for Office delay in issuing the patent more than four months after payment of the issue fee and satisfaction of all outstanding requirements, and for the Office taking in excess of three years to issue the patent (to the extent that the three-year period does not overlap with periods already accorded). **Petitioner is cautioned that any petition under 37 CFR 1.705(d) and/or request to accord patent term adjustment consistent with this decision must be filed within two months of the date of issuance of the patent and must be accompanied by the fee required by 37 CFR 1.18(e).**

³ The issue fee was paid on March 31, 2010. Accordingly, applicant timely filed the instant request for reconsideration of the patent term adjustment pursuant to 37 CFR 1.704(b) prior to the payment of the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.18(e).

Telephone inquiries specific to this decision should be directed to the undersigned at (571) 272-3222.

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